Rupees per unit of foreign currency

	Latest Rupee value (as on Feb. 18, 1992)	*Lowest Rupee value (as on date indicated)*
US Dollar	25.8963	26.3100 (Sept.9,1991)
Pound Sterling	45.9400	48.8900 (Dec.26, 1991)
Deutche Mark	15.9497	17.1300 (January 8, 1992)
Yen	0.2040	0.2106 (January 21, 1991)

(c) The Government has already undertaken a package of macro-economic stabilisation measures such as exchange rate adjustment strict fiscal discipline, tight monetary policy and a number of structural reforms in the spheres of trade and industry, which are expected to increase efficiency and productivity of Indian Industries and thereby provide a solid foundation for higher exports and stability and competitive edge to the Indian Rupee.

Textile Industry Under Siege

905. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Textile Industry under Siege' appearing in the Financial Express dated January 6, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the extent of decrease in export of textiles during 1991; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed too be taken to help the textile industry to tide over the present crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The news item has tried to give an account of performance of textile industry in the year 1991. Government do not agree with the conclusion that Textile Industry's future seems to be bleak on the export front.

(c) The export of Textiles registered an overall increase of 38.1% during the period April-December '91 in compatison to the export of textiles during the same period in the previous year. The exports of Textile Goods during 1991-92 is likely to exceed the target of Rs.11,233 crores.

(d) Government have taken various steps to increase the production of cloth in all the 3 sectors as well as to increase exports of textiles. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken are as follows:

i. modernisation of all the 3 sectors of textile industry.

ii. training of handloom weavers as well as powerloom weavers on improved technology.

iii. scheme of training a cadre of 'Bunkar Sevaks' for assisting weavers i transfer of improved technology.

iv. protection to handloom by reserving certain varieties of cloth for their exclusive production in the handloom sector;

v. some measures have been taken to contain yarn prices like import of cotton and raw silk.

vi. setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units.

New Mangalore Port

906. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the annual income of New Mangalore Port during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide additional berth facility at the port;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present cargo handling capacity of the port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The annual income during the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 is as follows;

1989-90 : Rs. 26.03 crores

1990-91 : Rs. 33.15 crores

Year 1991-92 is still not over.

(b) and (c). A proposal to construct two multipurpose berths with an estimated cost of Rs. 28.45 crores has been included in the Draft 8th Five-Year Plan. Plan has not yet been finalised.

(d) The present cargo handling capacity of the Port is 100 million tonnes.

Production in Handloom Sector

907. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of textiles being manufactured in the handloom sector per year on an average;

(b) whether there is any scope for the export of handloom graments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The estimated production of cloth in the handloom sector has been 4155 million square metres and 4541 million square metres during the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

(b) and (c). The demand for handloom garments in the export market has been encouraging. During the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 the estimated value of cotton handloom garments exported had been Rs. 19.01 crores, Rs. 31.13 crores and Rs. 71.38 crores respectively.